Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 DIWY-01 DHA-02

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECLA, CU, SGEN, EGEN

SUBJECT: ECLA-REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN

IN DEVELOPMENT

REFS: A) STATE 33957; B) USUN 410

- 1. DCM AND ECON COUNSELOR CALLED ON ECLA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY IGLESIAS TO DISCUSS VENUE OF CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT. IGLESIAS POINTED OUT THAT THE HAVANA SITE AND DATE HAD BEEN VOTED ON BY THE PREVIOUS CONFERENCE ON THIS SUBJECT IN CARACAS. HENCE, ACCORDING TO HIM, THERE WAS NO WAY IN WHICH LATER CONSULATIONS WITH MEMBER GOVERNMENTS OF ECLA WOULD HAVE DONE ANY GOOD. NOR, BY IMPLICATION, WAS HE ABLE UNILATERALLY TO CANCEL THE CONFERENCE NOR TO ALTER THE VENUE ALREADY VOTED ON.
- 2. IGLESIAS AGREED WITH EMBOFFS THAT HAVANA SITE AT THIS TIME WOULD INDEED CREATE PROBLEMS FOR THE US, AS IT WOULD FOR HIM. THE DATE SET, OCTOBER 1976, COULD NOT BE A WORSE TIME, WITH CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA PROBABLY STILL BE FRESH IN PEOPLE'S MINDS AND JUST BEFORE THE US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. NOT ONLY COULD THE US NOT ATTEND AN OCTOBER MEETING IN HAVANA, BUT URUGUAY, CHILE, NICARAGUA AND OTHERS WOULD ALSO BE CONSPICUOUS BY THEIR ABSENCE. FOR THESE REASONS, HE HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALREADY ADVISED THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA THAT ECLU STAFF WOULD NOT BE READY IN TIME FOR AN OCTOBER MEETING AND THAT IT

SHOULD BE POSTPONED TO A TIME NO EARLIER THAN MARCH 1977. HE HAD EVERY REASON TO EXPECT THAT HIS REQUEST FOR A POST-PONEMENT WOULD BE GRANTED, GIVING ALL CONCERNED A CHANCE TO RECONSIDER THE MATTER LATER ON.

- 3. IGLESIAS MADE CLEAR THAT HE IS NOT SEEKING MORE PROBLEMS THAN HE ALREADY HAS. WHILE FULLY UNDERSTANDING THE US POSITION, HE ALSO WISHES TO AVOID CONFRONTATION WITH QUOTE THOSE WOMEN UNQUOTE OVER DECISIONS ALREADY TAKEN. HE WAS VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN THE FLEXIBILITY SHOWN BY THE CUBANS REGARDING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF THE HAVANA VENUE FOR THE UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL. HE NOTED, TOO, RECENT SHIFTS IN ATTITUDES TOWARDS CUBA ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES, IMPLYING THAT IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO PREDICE WHAT THOSE WILL BE A YEAR FROM NOW.
- 4. ALTHOUGH IGLESIAS WAS CAGEY ON EVENTUAL VENUE, IT APPEARS MEETING POSTPONED UNTIL 1977. WE ARE IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH IGLESIAS AND WILL REPORT FURTHER. POPPER

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: SGEN, EGEN, OCON, CU, ECLA To: STATE

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